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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

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COUNTRY China

REPORT

SUBJECT 1. Labor Conditions in Fukien
 2. Collective Farms in Fukien

DATE DISTR. 29 October 1956

NO. PAGES 2

REQUIREMENT NO.	RD
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	
10	
11	
12	
13	
14	
15	
16	
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REFERENCES

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**PLACE &
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1. Very few laborers in China [] received monetary wages. With the exception of stone-breakers and personal-seal-engravers, whose services were in great demand, most laborers were paid in food. [] before which time the laborers had had to provide their own food. Chinese Communist regulations stipulated that laborers working on provincial or hsien construction projects would receive no monetary wages. Laborers working on special or on national construction projects were to be paid in money. Those paid in food points (liang shih fen, 4752/7380/0118) were paid at a rate equivalent to the highest labor points (kung fen, 1562/0118) earned by a farmer. In other words, when a person worked on provincial or hsien construction projects, it was as though he had joined the High Level Agricultural Cooperative (Nung Yeh Kao Chi Sheng Ch'an She, 6593/2814/7559/4787/3932/3934/4357). [] an additional benefit was given to construction project laborers. While they worked on a project, food supplied to them was not deducted from their food-point wages.

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2. [redacted] about 120 large trucks filled with civilian laborers were Shuit'ou (3055/7333). It was believed that these laborers had been working on the central and western Fukien portions of the Ying'tan (N 28-17, E 116-54) to Amoy railroad and on the Kuanch'i (3828/3305) airfield.¹ These laborers were being sent home because the first stage of the projects they had been working on had been initially completed, and the final work was to be finished by engineering troops. The Communists staged a send-off party, complete with colored banners and bands, and the laborers felt very proud.

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3. [redacted] small collective farms were to be established in various villages under the jurisdiction of Nanan Hsien. For example, every village had five High Level Cooperatives. [redacted] every 50X1-HUM villages were to be amalgamated into one small sized collective farm. This small collective farm would later join other collective farms and form one collective farm for each district (sh'u, C575). The district collective farms were then to

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[illegible]

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(Note: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; field distribution by "x".)

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be formed into one collective farm for each hsien (4905). Each person in China could have only one-twentieth of an acre for raising his own produce. Rich overseas Chinese could be required to contribute equipment and fertilizer for the whole village.

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4. This same system was to be adopted in various areas in Haich'eng (N 24-27, E 117-52). This would mean, also, that all the land, farming equipment, and oxen would be the property of the "high production cooperative" so that the farmers would have nothing left of their possessions outside the cooperative houses. All of the farmers would be required to join the higher production co-operatives with the exception of those

who were not considered sufficiently progressive. Anyone indicating opposition to the new cooperatives was to be prosecuted under charges of sabotaging production; and although the offender might not be shot or even placed under arrest, he would be refused admittance to the cooperatives and would probably starve.

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5. at least two travelers on the China mainland mentioned that residents to whom they had talked exhibited an interest in leaving China provided they would have a means of livelihood outside. It was difficult, however, to get a permit to leave the country except in the case of overseas Chinese or new immigrants.

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6. According to the regulations of the higher production cooperative, after each season's harvest a certain percentage was given to the hsien government (which acted as the agent for the national government) and a certain amount was retained by the cooperative and the hsien government to be used to obtain funds for fertilizer or whatever was determined necessary. After these deductions were made, the remainder of the harvest (less than 40 percent) was distributed among the farmers who were members of the cooperative. The method of distribution was based on individual performance with the consequence that, regardless of age and sex, every villager worked constantly in order to have enough to eat. Little or no time was found for rest. This hard work still failed to provide the individual farmer with adequate food and fuel. In addition to regular work in the fields, everyone was expected to attend meetings and study sessions almost daily.

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Comments

1. This is probably a reference to the Lungch'i (N 24-34, E 117-40), or Changchou, airfield.
2. Probably this is the same as the High Level Agricultural Cooperative reported in paragraph 1.

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